



**The Sea Ranch Association**

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Administration

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March 5, 2008

Mr. Ken Wiseman  
Executive Director MLPA Initiative  
C/O California Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Marine Life Protection Act Initiative; North Central Coast Sub-Region 1

Dear Mr. Wiseman:

Thank you for holding a second meeting of the North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCCRSG) in Gualala on February 5, 2008. Several Sea Ranch Association Board members, Association staff, and a number of Association members were in attendance. The meeting provided the opportunity to review the four revised draft proposals of the NCCRSG and the External Proposal A.

The Sea Ranch Association is a significant landowner on the northern California coast, representing approximately 10 miles of coastline and representing nearly 2300 property owners/members who have a vested interest in the protection of ocean resources and who make use of, to varying degrees, those ocean resources. Following the February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Association Board of Directors analyzed the various MLPA proposals in the context of interests of both Association members and the neighboring community, **and has concluded that, with the modifications noted below, Draft Proposal #2 (JD) is most favorable.**

The Association supports the goals of the MLPA Initiative to designate Marine Protected Areas that will conserve marine life and habitats, and that will ensure the sustainability of ocean resources for future generations. In its review of the draft proposals, the Association considered the following interests and issues:

- The interests of Association members who are sport fishermen, abalone divers, and/or own properties that may be rented to divers and fishermen. Members and the general public currently make use of ocean resources along The Sea Ranch coastline.
- The interests of Association members who have been disturbed by concentrations of abalone divers, especially trespassers.
- The environmental values and ocean resources that would be protected by the inclusion of The Sea Ranch coastline within a restrictive State Marine Reserve (SMR).

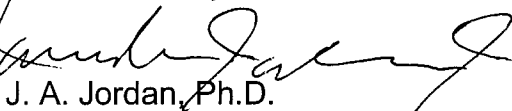
- Balancing the designation of restricted areas within North Central Coast Sub-Region 1 to ensure that undesignated areas are not overburdened with access demands, accelerated taking of ocean resources, or trespass. Existing public access points on The Sea Ranch are popular with sport fishermen and abalone divers.
- Good neighbor relations with adjacent landowners and neighboring communities.

Using these as criteria, the Association believes that Draft Proposal #2 (JD) best addresses the concerns and interests of its members, if the proposal is modified as follows:

- Relocate the northern boundary of the SMR off shore of the southern half of The Sea Ranch by one-quarter to one-half mile south of its current location. The current boundary at latitude 38 Degrees, 43 Minutes, 0 Seconds North captures the Stengel Beach Public Access point. Relocating the boundary to the south will allow continued public access for abalone divers and sport fishermen to make use of this facility.
- Retain and include in Proposal #2 (JD) the present Del Mar Landing Ecological Preserve and State Marine Park. This SMP was deleted in the current proposal.

The Association believes that with these modifications, Proposal #2 (JD) provides a favorable and balanced approach to the protection of marine resources. The Association also believes that the eventual enforcement of restrictions within an MPA on The Sea Ranch coastline will benefit from existing Security Patrols by the Association, which will reduce the State's enforcement costs, and that Proposal #2 (JD) benefits from the fact that from its southern boundary to Salt Point Park, the coastline is under private protection, acting as a de facto preserve and extending the protected area provided. We request that our concerns and recommendations be included in the next round of deliberations of the NCCRSG scheduled for March 18 and 19, 2008.

Yours sincerely,



J. A. Jordan, Ph.D.

Chair of The Sea Ranch Association Board of Directors

cc: The Sea Ranch Association Board of Directors  
John Fox, Community Manager, The Sea Ranch Association  
State Senator Patricia Wiggins  
State Assembly Member Patty Berg  
Supervisor Mike Reilly